

EMPIRE MICA



The Empire Mica was a 465-foot British oil tanker built in 1941 for the United Kingdom's Ministry of War Transport during World War II. Her mission was critical—transporting fuel for Allied forces, including aviation fuel destined for the Royal Air Force. On June 29, 1942, while transiting the Gulf, she was torpedoed by the German submarine U-67 approximately 21 miles south of Cape San Blas. The ship burned and drifted for more than 24 hours before sinking, with 33 crew members lost in the attack.

Today, the remains of the Empire Mica rest in roughly 110–115 feet of water, forming one of the Florida Panhandle's most historically significant wreck dives. Portions of the wreck were later bombed by the U.S. Coast Guard to reduce navigational hazards, leaving the site scattered but dramatic. Divers can explore sections of the bow, boilers, shaft, and hull while surrounded by thriving marine life, making the Empire Mica a powerful blend of wartime history, solemn remembrance, and living reef habitat.

